

Dr. Channapatna S. Prakash

Professor, Tuskegee University, USA



Dr. C. S. Prakash is the Director of Center for Plant Biotechnology Research at Tuskegee University (USA) who oversees the research on food crops of importance to developing countries and training of many postdoctoral scientists, graduate students and undergraduate students. He has a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and a Masters in Genetics and obtained his Ph.D. in genetics from the Australian National University, Canberra. He has considerable research expertise in transgenic plants, gene expression, tissue culture and plant genomics. Dr. Prakash's group at TU has many 'firsts' to their credit including the development of transgenic sweetpotato plants, identification of DNA polymorphism in peanut and the development of a genetic map of cultivated peanut. Dr. Prakash and his associates have recently developed a method of improving the protein content of plants by several-fold through genetic modification. He has received more than \$4 million in funding for research from United States Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Agency for International Development and UNESCO. Dr. Prakash has more than fifty scientific publications in refereed journals and has made nearly 100 presentations at meetings. He teaches two courses in plant biotechnology at TU. Dr. Prakash has actively worked to promote biotechnology in developing countries of Asia and Africa through training of students and scholars, research collaboration and seminars.

Dr. Prakash is the founder of AgBioWorld (<http://www.agbioworld.org>) and received endorsements from more than 1,500 scientists from across the world for his petition in support of agricultural biotechnology including Dr. Norman Borlaug and Dr. James Watson. He has also just been named to be on the Agricultural Biotechnology Advisory Committee by U.S. Agricultural Secretary Dan Glickman. Dr. Prakash is a regular writer on biotechnology issues in the ISB News Report (<http://www.isb.vt.edu>), a newsletter on agricultural biotechnology. Dr. Prakash serves on the executive committee of the American Society of Plant Physiologists and on the Commission on Biotechnology, International Society for Horticultural Science. He is also the Panel Manager for the Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grant Program of the United States Department of Agriculture, and an Advising Editor to AgBioForum, a web journal devoted to agbiotech issues (<http://www.agbioforum.missouri.edu/>). Interviews with Dr. Prakash and stories about his research have appeared in various media including National Public Radio, Science, Wall Street Journal, The Scientist, Technology Review, Focus (Germany), Atlanta Journal Constitution, BBC Radio, MSNBC.Com, Village Voice, Summitt TV (Africa) and several overseas newspapers. He has also assisted in the production of a documentary examining the negative effect of environmentalist activism on agricultural biotechnology in the developing world for Channel Four (UK) and a documentary examining the potential for GM crops in Africa for South African Broadcasting Corpn.

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